

Message Text

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ACTION EUR-25

INFO OCT-01 IO-14 ISO-00 EURE-00 SSO-00 NSCE-00 USIE-00

INRE-00 CIAE-00 PM-07 INR-10 L-03 NEA-11 NSAE-00

PA-04 RSC-01 PRS-01 SPC-03 TRSE-00 SAM-01 SAJ-01 H-03

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FM USMISSION NATO

TO SECSTATE WASHDC IMMEDIATE 3825

SECDEF WASHDC IMMEDIATE

INFO AMEMBASSY BONN

AMEMBASSY LONDON

AMEMBASSY VIENNA

USNMR SHAPE

USCINCEUR

USMISSION GENEVA

S E C R E T USNATO 0501

E.O. 11652: GDS

TAGS: PARM, NATO

SUBJECT: MBFR: UK POSITION ON STABILIZING MEASURES

VIENNA FOR USDEL MBFR

GENEVA FOR USDEL CSCE

1. AT JANUARY 30 SPC DRAFTING GROUP MEETING, UK REP CIRCULATED STATEMENT OF REASONS UNDERLYING BRITISH OBJECTIONS TO APPLYING STABILIZING MEASURES IN THEIR PRESENT FORM TO BRITISH FORCES. UK REP AND SHAPE REP ASKED U.S. REP IF RESTRICTIONS MENTIONED IN PARA C OF UK PAPER WOULD NOT BE EQUALLY UNWELCOMED TO U.S, SINCE EXERCISE SEASON IN GERMANY OUTSIDE TRAINING AREAS IS SHORT. ACTION REQUESTED.: GUIDANCE TO THIS POINT.

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2. BEGIN TEXT

THE MEASURES PROPOSED IN ISD/65 WOULD BE UNACCEPTABLE FOR APPLICATION TO BRITISH FORCES FOR THE FOLLOWING REASONS:

A) THE MEASURES CONTAINED A NUMBER OF REFERENCES TO ROTATIONS AND MONTHLY SCHEDULES OF MOVEMENTS OF FORCES INTO THE AREA. THE BRITISH ARMY OF THE RHINE IS A STANDING REGULAR ARMY WHICH DOES NOT HAVE YEARLY OR TWICE YEARLY CONSCRIPT ENTRIES. THE IDEA OF A MONTHLY SCHEDULE OF ANTICIPATED CHANGES IN THIS STRENGTH IS INAPPROPRIATE.

B) AT PRESENT, UNITS OF THE BRITISH ARMY OF THE RHINE HAVE TO LEAVE AND ENTER GERMANY AT SHORT NOTICE BECAUSE OF THE SITUATION IN NORTHERN IRELAND. THE UNITED KINGDOM COULD NOT UNDERTAKE TO PROVIDE SIXTY DAYS NOTICE OF A CHANGE OF 10 PERCENT IN A PREVIOUSLY ANNOUNCED SHCHEDULE, NOR TO PROVIDE A YEARLY FORECAST OF MOVEMENTS IN AND OUT OF THE AREA, EG TO AND FROM NORTHERN IRELAND, OF UNITS WITH A MANNING LEVEL OF MORE THAN ONE THOUSAND MEN.

C) THE EXERCISE SEASON IN GERMANY OUTSIDE TRAINING AREAS IS SHORT, BEING LIMITED FOR PRACTICAL REASONS (EG RISK OF DAMAGE TO CROPS) TO ABOUT TWO MONTHS A YEAR. THE RESTRICTIONS SPECIFIED IN THE THIRD OF THE PROPOSED MEASURES, PARTICULARLY THE REQUIREMENT FOR A GAP OF THIRTY DAYS BETWEEN EXERCISES, WOULD IN PRACTICE MEAN THAT BRITISH FORCES COULD CONDUCT ONLY ONE, OR AT THE MOST JUST POSSIBLY TWO DIVISIONAL EXERCISES IN GERMANY PER YEAR (DIVISIONAL EXERCISES COULD ONLY TAKE PLACE OUTSIDE THE TRAINING AREAS, SINCE THESE ARE LIMITED IN SIZE). THIS WOULD BE AN UNACCEPTABLE RESTRICTION ON THE TRAINING OF BAOR.

APART FROM THESE MILITARY AND TECHNICAL OBJECTIONS, THERE ARE ALSO IMPORTANT POLITICAL CONSIDERATIONS. APPLICATION OF THE MEASURES TO BRITISH FORCES WOULD MEAN CONTRACTUAL OBLIGATIONS TO THE SOVIET UNION RESTRICTING THE FREEDOM OF MOVEMENT OF THE FORCES OF ONE COMMUNITY COUNTRY WITHIN THE AREA OF THE COMMUNITY. THIS IS AN ASPECT OF MBFR WHICH IN THE UNITED KINGDOM VIEW SHOULD BE STUDIED WITH THE MAXIMUM CARE AND PRUDENCE. THE SORT OF DETAILED PROVISION THAT MIGHT BE APPROPRIATE FOR APPLICATION TO US AND SOVIET FORCES OF COMMUNITY COUNTRIES. WE RECOGNISE OF COURSE THAT IN THE SECOND PHASE OF MBFR SOME MEASURES OF CONSTRAINT

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NEED TO BE APPLIED TO EUROPEAN FORCES. BUT WE WISH IT TO BE QUITE CLEAR THAT IN THE BRITISH VIEW THAT SORT OF MEASURES THAT MAY BE APPLIED TO EUROPEAN FORCES ARE LIKELY TO BE OF A DIFFERENT

KIND FROM THOSE APPROPRIATE FOR US AND SOVIET FORCES.

END TEXT

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